

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust  
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Moness Lodge, Aberfeldy  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Richard Paul (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Heather Hamilton, Bill Hoare, Ann Macintosh, Richard Rees, Gordon Stronach, Trish Waite, Andy Walker, Ian Wilkinson.

Apologies: Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Jeannie Grant, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Emma O'Shea, Bobby Wardle, Kelsey Wilson

Welcome to new Trustees: KW, BW, EO'S and JM (to be co-opted) were welcomed (in their absence).

Minutes of previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017: approved after two minor changes (prop BH; sec AW)

Matters arising: BH pointed out that a contact will be needed for Breadalbane Primary pupils, who wish to do a bug search on DC.  
Phone reception on DC is about 75% and is constantly changing, making a map of little use.

Draft minutes of AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017: Trustees agreed that Draft minutes should be placed on the web site, to avoid a delay of a year.

Lessons to be learned from AGM: the sequence of actions needed to organise the AGM is important and should be circulated in good time to all Trustees and others concerned.  
IW wondered if the venue should always be Aberfeldy since this had had the highest attendance. However others thought that the speaker and subject of the talk were more influential and that the venue should vary

Election of Chairman for 2017 to 2018 AW agreed to stand and was elected unanimously. He then took over as Chairman. BH suggests a review of delegated tasks. This was as follows:

Areas of responsibility for the coming year

WMcG: liaison with FC and forest partnerships, deer management.

RP: fencing.

AM: facebook.

HH: admin of facebook group, paths (brush-cutting of routes).

Rob C: deer management (in the closed season, until November, visits to DC will be less frequent and will be voluntary). RC was thanked for his work; 11 deer had been shot since the beginning of the year.

RC and WMcG are planning a perimeter walk to check the fence. HH plans to go too.

Organisation of AGM: to be decided.

BH: Admin, legal matters, OSCR, Hydroscheme.

IW: treasurer for one more year. An overlap of 6 months with his successor would be of benefit. JM was thought to be willing. AW will write to confirm and thank him **ACTION AW**

MJ: Minutes.

AW and HH: newsletter etc.

TW: site maintenance 'litter picking' etc.

JM: maps.

TF, with RC: natural history.

Alice Jarvis, AM, RR: web site.

Sandra Winter: help with younger visiting groups.

GS: lower Birks field.

Financial Report: the financial report was circulated by IW. The business current account balance was £20,191; significant expenditure was £960 for stalking. The project account balance was £15,467; significant expenditure was £1832 wages. This is under control – more funding is being sought.

SSE money from capitalisation of wayleave (ca £8,500) is expected in a few months.

The problem of membership dues requires decision at a separate meeting. £10 per family at present creates a difficulty in knowing an exact number of members; some still pay £20 by standing order. Change may require a change in the constitution.

Forestry and deer culling: Heart of Scotland project

There is still no comment from FC following their site visit. WMcG is optimistic about this; we may even receive at least some of the last tranche of the WGS grant.

WMcG feels there is no need for large numbers of trees to be bought and planted. He considers that more trees are needed on the south side of Dun Beag near the memorial planting. We should continue to use tubes and stakes, as evidence of good care, and also that we should undertake a regeneration survey. HH will consult with Woodland Trust about this. **ACTION HH.**

The H of S project is applying for funding. It will have its own website but AJ will be informed so it can be included in the HPCLT site. HH thinks we should have a Trustee involved and pointed out that HPCLT is an important member because of the community aspect. JM and KW were suggested.

Project Officer's report: The Youth Training course, with 5 hard-working new trainees, is going well. They have done first aid, chain saw training, tree planting and after care and fence repairs. They do brush-cutting this week, walling and quad bikes later.

Volunteer work parties continue on Tuesdays and the last Saturday of the month.

Cubs and Kenmore Primary have had good visits; Grandtully primary are keen on their camera trap work. The black grouse lek is active (41 males).

There will be an organised black grouse watch on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, NTS staff from Killin come on 8<sup>th</sup> May, Beavers on 26<sup>th</sup> May, Yorkhill Hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Pitlochry High School rescheduled visit on 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> June and European youth volunteers in July.

A butterfly transect has been established and will be walked weekly until September.

A PhD student (Eilidh) will be surveying on DC, including bats and invertebrates.

HH would like to resurvey quadrats surveyed in 2003/4.

HH has a quote for a composting toilet, twin-chambered, needing minimum maintenance. WMcG is applying for funding.

Aberfeldy land: Name? There have been various suggestions but after some discussion no decision was made.

Lower Birks field; Lower Birks common(ty); Bard's field; Poets' field; Menzies field; Breadalbane meadow; Duncan's field; ---loan; Linden ---.

Use? Mountain bike trail; Community orchard; paths and seats, wildflower meadow, pond, green gym; no change. There were potentially very useful offers of help and involvement.

Changes to constitution: BH has a letter from Colin Liddell, dated 2009, about this. He will put forward proposals at the next AGM. Modernisation to electronic methods is required.

Review of hen harrier tagging: Dee Cee is now on Jura. It was agreed that RSPB would be given our permission to tag again. However some reservations were expressed about unwanted extra publicity about the nest site on DC.

E-newsletter: BH has produced and circulated updates ca bi-monthly. The next is due; BH will write it; HH will contribute. It will be sent out by the end of April. **ACTION BH and HH**

Website; facebook: All were asked to comment on the new web site, to RR. MJ thought the title's font should be Tempus Sans, as agreed many years ago.

GIS: JM was congratulated on the work he had done with maps.

AOCB:

Colin Liddell's seminar was recommended to all new Trustees.

HH was given information about grants for paths by BH.

AJ was applauded for her work on the web site and was asked to send an invoice, up to £1000, to IW.

Ruth Atkinson, a former Trustee, had presented a copy of the booklet she has written for FC on Native Woods. She was thanked for this. AW will thank her formally. MJ will forward her address. **ACTION AW, MJ**

HH hopes to drive a group to the Borders to visit the Carrifran project. A grant is available for this.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

AM was thanked for her hospitality.

Next Meeting: to be arranged.

BH will ask Rhinos cafe for a meeting place with a view to visiting the nearby lower Birks area